

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ANKARA 05761 101252Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 AID-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MCE-00 SMS-02
/094 W

-----026913 101301Z /53

P R 101210Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2920
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 5761

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, UR, US
SUBJ: TURKISH REACTION TO TASS STATEMENT ON EMBARGO AND BASE
RE-OPENING

REF: (A) ANKARA 5643, (B) ISTANBUL 2443

1. AS REPORTED REFTELS, WEEKEND TASS STATEMENT CRITICIZING
LIFTING OF ARMS EMBARGO ON TURKEY HAS CREATED POLITICAL
STIR HERE. STATEMENT IS POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT TO ECEVIT
BECAUSE HE EMPHASIZED TO TURKISH PUBLIC THAT, DURING HIS
VISIT TO MOSCOW, SOVIET LEADERS TOOK CARE NOT TO PRESSURE
HIM OR EVEN REFER TO TURKEY'S TIES WITH THE US AND NATO.
ECEVIT IMPLIED THAT THIS JUSTIFIED HIS BELIEF THAT TURKEY
COULD HAVE BOTH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND
STRENGTHENED SECURITY TIES WITH THE WEST ONCE THE EMBARGO
WAS KUFTE. WHEN ASKED BY NEWSMEN AUGUST 8 ABOUT THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ANKARA 05761 101252Z

TASS STATEMENT, ECEVIT DUCKED THE QUESTION, SIMPLY
DECLINING TO "COMMENT" ON A "COMMENTARY" AND NOTING
THAT VERY PRODUCTIVE COOPERATION HAD DEVELOPED BETWEEN
TURKEY AND THE USSR IN RECENT YEARS.

2. GOT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY BRIEFING NEWSMEN
IN ORDER TO PUT THE BEST FACE ON THE TASS STATEMENT IN

VIEW OF ITS COMMITMENT TO BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. INITIAL PRESS ARTICLES HAD EMPHASIZED THE STATEMENT'S IMPLICATION THAT, SINCE THE RESUMED US ARMS SALES TO TURKEY WOULD UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE IN THE AEGEAN, A MILITARILY STRONG TURKEY WAS SOMEHOW A BAD THING. SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES AND COMMENTARIES QUOTED "DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL" CIRCLES IN ANKARA TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIET REACTION WAS TRIGGERED BY THE POSSIBILITY OF REACTIVATION OF AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY, RATHER THAN BY THE DANGER OF UPSETTING THE REGIONAL MILITARY BALANCE. A LOCAL WIRE SERVICE STORY SAID THE STATEMENT REPRESENTS A "HASTY" SOVIET APPRAISAL OF THE EMBARGO VOTE.

3. MILLIYET COLUMNIST ABDI IPEKCI, WHOSE COMMENTARIES OFTEN REFLECT DETAILED GOT BRIEFINGS, WROTE AUGUST 9 THAT, FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO, TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATO ALLIANCE. IPEKCI SAID THAT ECEVIT WANTED TO BASE TURKEY'S ROLE WITHIN NATO ON THE PROTECTION OF DETENTE AND PEACE AND THAT ECEVIT WOULD EVALUATE THE QUESTION OF AMERICAN BASES FROM THIS STANDPOINT. IPEKCI WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE AMERICAN BASES WHICH TURKEY WOULD PERMIT TO REOPEN WOULD HAVE A FUNCTION OF MONITORING THE SALT AGREEMENT. IPEKCI CONCLUDED THAT, SINCE SALT IS AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT DESIGNED TO PROTECT PEACE, SUCH AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ANKARA 05761 101252Z

WOULD NOT THREATEN THE USSR AND THAT ECEVIT'S STATEMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP IN BOTH MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON WERE THEREFORE NOT CONTRADICTORY.

4. COMMENT: WE MAY HEAR MORE OF THE IPEKCI JUSTIFICATION OF BASE REOPENING. HOWEVER TRANSPARENT, ECEVIT NEEDS SUCH A PUBLIC LINE TO SATISFY HIS PARTY'S LEFT-WING, PARTICULARLY IF THE TASS STATEMENT PROVES TO BE THE OPENING GUN OF A SOVIET CAMPAIGN TO PRESSURE TURKEY ON THE BASES ISSUE. DILLON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ARMS EMBARGO, MILITARY BASES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA05761
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780327-0779
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780876/aaaaclyhy.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4ab55b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 5643, 78 ISTANBUL 2443
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1773588
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH REACTION TO TASS STATEMENT ON EMBARGO AND BASE RE-OPENING
TAGS: PEPR, UR, US, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4ab55b65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014